

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MADRID 07647 142313Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 W
-----026526 142323Z /23
O 142304Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2075

UNCLAS MADRID 07647

OPS CENTER/SCS

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: CDES (CROSBY, BING)
SUBJECT: DEATH OF BING CROSBY

FOLLOWING ARE THE DETAILS OF BING CROSBY'S DEATH, MOST OF WHICH
HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED BY PHONE TO DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER.

AT 6:00 P.M. TODAY, BING CROSBY DIED OF AN APPARENT HEART ATTACK.
HE HAD JUST COMPLETED 18 HOLES OF GOLF AT THE CLUB DE GOLF
MORALEJA, WHERE HE WAS THE GUEST OF MR. CESAR DE ZULUETA.

CROSBY ARRIVED YESTERDAY AND WAS STAYING AT THE RITZ HOTEL IN MADRID.
THE EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS PRESENCE.

AFTER FINISHING THE 18TH HOLE, ZULUETA WAS INTRODUCING HIM TO
HIS SON-IN-LAW WHEN CROSBY COLLAPSED AND FELL TO THE GROUND.
THE ATTACK OCCURRED SOME 30 METERS FROM THE CLUBHOUSE. HE WAS
RUSHED TO THE FIRST AID STATION THERE, WHERE A DOCTOR GAVE HIM
OXYGEN AND MASSAGED HIS HEART. HIS EFFORTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.
CROSBY NEVER REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS. UP TO THIS POINT, HE HAD
SHOWN NO SIGNS OF ILLNESS AND WAS IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS.

HIS HOST AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS FOURSOME RUSHED CROSBY TO THE
HOSPITAL CENTRAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA IN DOWNTOWN MADRID. HEART
SPECIALISTS THERE DECLARED THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE.
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AS SOON AS THE ATTACK OCCURRED, HIS FRIENDS CALLED THE CONSULAR
SECTION OF THE EMBASSY. THE CONSUL NOTIFIED THE AMBASSADOR
AND THEN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE HOSPITAL.
THERE, THEY OBTAINED TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF MR. CROSBY'S BUSINESS
MANAGER, BASIL GRILLO (805 482-9621), AND RELAYED THESE BACK
TO THE AMBASSADOR WHO CALLED HIM AND INFORMED HIM OF THE DEATH.

HAVING COMMUNICATED WITH GRILLO, THE AMBASSADOR PROCEEDED TO THE HOSPITAL, WHERE HE SPOKE TO MR. ZULUETA AND THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE. HE MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES, EXPRESSING HIS CONDOLENCES OVER THE TRAGIC PASSING OF MR. CROSBY.

THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY WHERE HE PLACED A CALL AGAIN TO MR. GRILLO. CONSULAR DUTY OFFICERS DISCUSSED THE NEED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE BODY. GRILLO PROMISED TO RETURN THE CALL AS SOON AS HE HAD SOME DEFINITE INFORMATION.

LATER, AT 10:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, THE AMBASSADOR WAS ABLE TO REACH MRS. CROSBY AND EXPRESSED HIS CONDOLENCES TO HER.

MR. ALAN FISHER, CROSBY'S BUTLER, AND CROSBY'S SON HARRY ARE COMING IN FROM LONDON TOMORROW MORNING TO ASSIST IN THE DISPOSITION OF CROSBY'S REMAINS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771060/aaaabyvn.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: DEATH OF BING CROSBY FOLLOWING ARE THE DETAILS OF BING CROSBY'S DEATH, MOST OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED BY PHONE TO DEPARTMENT OP
TAGS: CDES, (CROSBY, BING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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